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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Written statement* submitted by the Society Studies Centre (MADA ssc), a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[25 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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The Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights in Sudan

Commending the resolutions and efforts of the Human Rights Council HRC in combating the unilateral coercive measures especially the most recent resolution No. HRC 27/L2 appointing a special rapporteur concerned with the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, the Society Studies Center (MADA SSC) deems that such appointment should be considered as an opportunity to address the shortcomings, delays and failures which have impeded confrontation of the unilateral coercive measures over the past decades.

Success in implementing the mandate of the special rapporteur will not be attained except by provision of human and financial resources necessary he needs to accomplish his work. Furthermore, we need to have a clear vision on how to hold the parties imposing such measures accountable and oblige them to compensate the affected parties all over the world for the damages caused by application of such measures and ensuring non-recurrence of same in the future. In this regard, the (MADA SSC) calls the esteemed council to promptly consider preparation of a draft international convention to ban unilateral coercive measures. A Treaty body could then after be formed to pursue implementation of the proposed committee decisions worldwide.

The (MADA SSC), with many other CSO's from all continents initiated a worldwide campaign in opposition to unilateral coercive measures which was launched in Geneva last September. Parallel campaigns were launched at the national level in Sudan in April last year and at the continental level on the sidelines of the AU Summits in Addis Ababa and Johannesburg 2015. We take this opportunity to declare readiness of the International Campaign against unilateral coercive measures to cooperate with the Special Rapporteur in carrying out his mandate successfully.

Within the context shown above, The (MADA SSC) would like to brief the HRC on the negative impacts of the unilateral coercive measures on the citizens of Sudan, as follows:

The Right to Health:

- These unjust measures resulted in deteriorating health institutions over the country in both rural and urban areas. Sudanese people were deprived from their right to benefit from advanced medical technologies, diagnosis devices and even from obtaining spare parts they need to run the equipment already in their possession.
- Maternal, pregnancy and children below five mortality rates increased sharply due to the blockage imposed on medical equipment imports and the impediments to equipping operation rooms satisfactorily.
- Importation of life saving medications and serums was also subject to the embargo. In view of stopping banking transactions with Sudan no funding for importing such vital needs, from the US or elsewhere, could be sought.
- External professional training for Sudanese medical staff could not be attained.
- The National Center for Renal Diseases was not able to introduce the micro- perfusion technologies, one of the latest in the field, to address the growing danger of increased renal failure incidents with the pretext that the needed devices include some US-made parts.
- Sudan was precluded from being a main recipient of the aid provided by the international funds for combating Malaria, AIDS and Tuberculosis.

The Right to Work:

- Imposition of unilateral coercive measures resulted in depriving a large sector of the Sudanese people from their right to work where unemployment rate increased to 42% and 730000 graduates failed to find jobs due to the disruption of many development projects.

- Not less than 30000 workers in textile sector, 10000 in banking and 20000 in railways and 4000 from air aviation sector lost their jobs in addition to 1700 from River Transport Authority.
- Many industries and agricultural schemes including the renowned Gezira scheme with area of 2 million feddans, being the largest irrigated scheme in the world have ceased to operate together with many other smaller agricultural schemes like White Nile, Habila, Nuba Mountains, Marra Mountains, and al-Qash and Toaker. Consequently, thousands of workers in those schemes were disposed of.
- Heavy burden was laid on Sudanese expatriates by impeding their personal financial transfers whether for family needs or for commercial purposes. Expats were hampered even from opening personal accounts with international banks.
- The disabled persons and those with special needs were subjected to further sufferings and were deprived from enjoying basic rights in result of the adverse effects of the measures on the budgets and the other related sectors.
- Wide scope of business and professions including private workshops and service enterprises especially those dealing in air and railways' transport were seriously affected by the measures. Many of these activities ceased to operate and eventually workers were left idle increasing further the unemployment rates.

The Right to Development: Unilateral coercive measures have adversely affected both the public and private sectors in Sudan and consequently weakened their ability to bring about any substantial development towards realizing the MDGs despite that we are now in 2015 i.e. end term of the process especially in regard of poverty alleviation. Adverse impact on development was manifested in total stoppage of passenger trains and the collapse of Sudanair, one of the oldest airliners in Africa, after many air crashes for lack of proper spare parts with hundreds of deaths and casualties. Development of Sudan textile and sugar industries was hampered as well as livestock' and irrigation' plans in view of the restrictions imposed on Sudanese banks. We believe that the most harmful effects of the measures were sustained in the arena of meeting the MDGs satisfactorily.

Women Rights: Women in Sudan suffered much in result of the imposition of the unjust unilateral coercive measures especially in the health domain. Higher mortality rates, divorces, poorly equipped education, decreased enrollment of girls to education, school dropouts and early school leaving have all affected negatively the efforts to realize woman empowerment goal.

The Right to Education: In result to the impeded economic capabilities of the State, developing educational institutions was an unreachable goal. Education rates in conflict- torn areas and in vulnerable local communities fell down drastically. With poverty rate climbing to 46% due to the measures, many families were unable to continue spending on their children's education. Thus, a significant segment of children were deprived from their right to education. On the higher education level, Sudan is witnessing an excessive brain drain due to the hard economic situation created by the measures. Universities of Sudan are becoming unable to obtain labs' and workshops' equipment and other essential technologies.

Right to Clean Drinking Water: The Measures have limited the country's ability to process and produce clean water which depends on obtaining advanced technologies and water purification materials. It was imperative for the authorities to rely on short-term alternatives at 100% higher price compared to regular materials. Spread of serious diseases including cancers, renal failure, Leishmaniasis *"Kala- azar"*,Schistosomiasisand other waterborne diseases is suspected to be a result of using irregular water-purification materials.

The Right to Food: Spread of malnutrition- related diseases especially among children can plausibly be attributed to the imposition of unilateral coercive measures. UNICEF reports are pointing to the increase in malnutrition rates among children though excluding unregistered children in war-affected zones.

The **Society Studies Centre** (MADA SSC) would like to take this opportunity to extend invitation to the Special Rapporteur to visit Sudan to closely inspect the serious adverse impacts of the unilateral coercive measures on our nation for above two decades and that have negatively impacted individuals, groups and institutions. The (MADA SSC), as well as all members of the International Campaign against Unilateral Coercive Measures, would also like to confirm readiness to cooperate with the Hon. Special Rapporteur at national, regional and international levels.

To make a success of the Rapporteur's mandate, we demand the following from the esteemed Council:

- Keenness in taking the necessary resolutions during the Rapporteurs' mandate and at the times he submits his periodical reports to the Council, including considering preparation of an international convention banning imposition of unilateral coercive measures.
- Work for creation of a mechanism to evaluate the extent of damage ensued from imposing unilateral coercive measures, in preparation for demanding compensation to affected people and entities.
- We call upon all countries , international agencies and all activists, human rights' advocates, to stand in solidarity to make a success of the Special Rapporteur's mandate and extend every possible support and assistance to him to address this vital issue.